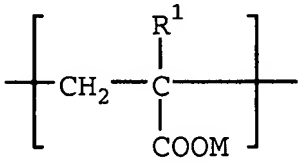
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

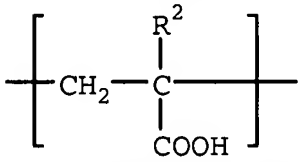
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An adhesive composition for dermal patch, comprising

(A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



(1)



(2)

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH_4^+ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 100/0 to 90/10 (by mol),

(B) water,

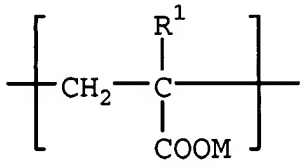
(C) a polyhydric alcohol and

(D) an aluminum compound,

with the content of (B) water being from 5 to 18.975 mass%,

wherein a water-soluble aluminum compound and a magnesium hydroxide aluminum hydroxide co-precipitate are used in combination as the aluminum compound.

2. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein (A) the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2) has a viscosity of 400 mPa·s or more in 0.2 mass% aqueous solution:



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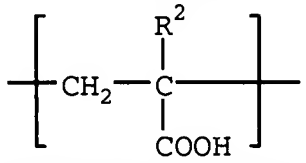


(2)

wherein all the symbols have the same meaning as defined in claim 1.

3. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a trivalent or of a higher valence.

4. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin.

5. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol content is from 40 to 94.5 mass% based on the entire amount of the composition.

6. (canceled).

7. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aluminum compound content is from 0.01 to 20 mass% based on the entire amount of the composition.

8. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises (E) a polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol.

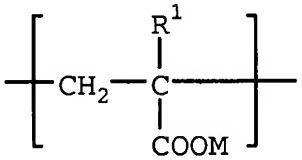
9. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 8, wherein (E) the polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a carboxyvinyl polymer and an N-vinylacetamide-sodium acrylate copolymer.

10. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the content of the polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol is from 0.01 to 20 mass% based on the entire amount of the composition.

11. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

12. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

13. (currently amended): A process for producing an adhesive composition for dermal patch, the adhesive composition comprising, as essential components, (A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



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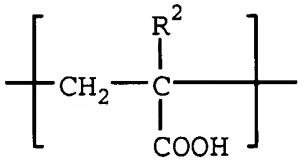


(2)

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH_4^+ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 100/0 to 90/10 (by mol), (B) water, (C) a polyhydric alcohol and (D) an aluminum compound and ~~comprising,~~ if desired, (E) a polymer compound ~~having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol~~, with the content of (B) water being from 5 to 30 mass% ~~above~~,

wherein water (B) is added to a solution of ~~the process comprises mixing~~ (A) the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer dissolved in ~~and a solution of~~ (C) a predetermined partial amount of the polyhydric alcohol such that the water concentration at this step becomes ~~in (B) water to give a water concentration of~~ 50% or more ~~in~~ based on the total mass thereof, and then ~~adding and mixing~~ the remaining ingredients (C) the ~~residual~~ remaining amount of polyhydric alcohol, (D) the aluminum compound and if desired, (E) the polymer compound are added and mixed to adjust the final water concentration to a range of 5 to 30%.

14. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 2, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

15. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 2, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

16. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 3, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

17. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 3, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

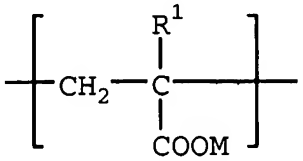
18. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 4, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

19. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 4, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

20. (previously presented): The process for producing an adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 13, wherein the content of (B) water is from 5 to 18.975 mass%, and wherein the process comprises mixing (A) the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer and a solution of (C) the polyhydric alcohol in (B) water to give a water concentration of 50% or more in the total mass thereof, and then adding and mixing the remaining ingredients (C) the residual polyhydric alcohol, (D) the aluminum compound and if desired, (E) the polymer compound to adjust the water concentration to a range of 5 to 18.975%.

21. (previously presented): An adhesive composition for dermal patch, comprising

(A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



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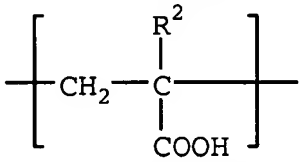


(2)

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH_4^+ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 100/0 to 90/10 (by mol),

(B) water,

(C) a polyhydric alcohol and

(D) an aluminum compound,

with the content of (B) water being from 5 to 30 mass%,

wherein the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2) has a viscosity of 400 mPa·s or more in 0.2 mass% aqueous solution.

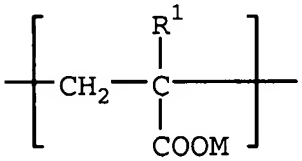
22. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 21, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

23. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 21, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

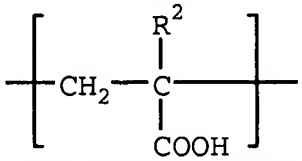
24. (new): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol (C) is present in a range of 70 mass% to 94.5 mass%.

25. (new): An adhesive composition for dermal patch, comprising

(A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



(1)



(2)

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH_4^+ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 90/10 to less than 100/0 (by mol),

(B) water,

(C) a polyhydric alcohol and

(D) an aluminum compound,

with the content of (B) water being from 5 to 18.975 mass%.